

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated May 21, 2008. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

By the above amendments, claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 12 are amended; and claim 5 is cancelled. Thus, claims 1-4 and 6-12 are currently pending in the present application.

Next, to facilitate the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, the specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised in order to make a number of minor clarifying and other editorial amendments. Note that the changes to the abstract are submitted in the form of a substitute abstract. Copies of the amended portions of the specification, claims and abstract with the changes marked therein are attached.

Next, on page 3 of the Office Action, claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In response, claim 12 has been amended to recite that the opening is disposed in the side of the wiper blade that opposes a side of the wiper arm having the side pin. This language clarifies the location of the opening in relation to the wiper arm.

Next, on pages 3-4 of the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Young III, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,920,950). Also, on pages 4-5 of the Office Action, claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Charng (U.S. Patent No. 6,000,093) in view of Young III. It is submitted that the present invention, as defined in independent claims 1 and 10, now clearly distinguishes over the Charng and Young III references for the following reasons.

The present invention, as defined in independent claim 1, requires, *inter alia*, a connector

including a base member having a receiving portion comprising an arcuate recess and a locking member having part-circular recesses. The arcuate recess of the base member is adapted to receive a side pin of the wiper arm, and the part-circular recesses of the locking member are adapted to hold the side pin in the arcuate recess.

Young III is directed to a wiper blade attachment adaptor for holding a hook portion of a wiper arm rather than a side pin and does not disclose a circular portion for fitting to a side pin. Thus, the Young III reference is not particularly relevant to the connector, defined in amended claim 1, which is for connecting a wiper blade to a wiper arm having a side pin. It is noted that the Young III reference discloses an arcuate recess (aperture 25), but this recess is provided for the purpose of receiving a pin attached to a wiper blade rather than a side pin of a wiper arm.

Charng discloses a wiper blade assembly having a connector including keyhole-shaped passages 62 and 63 for receiving a side pin of a wiper arm, and a latching member 61 hinged to the connector 6. However, the latching member 61 is quite different from the locking member of the subject invention because the latching member 61 is for holding a hook portion of a wiper arm (see Fig. 14) and does not include part circular recesses for fitting to a side pin of a wiper arm as required in claim 1. Further, claim 10 requires the above-noted limitations of claim 1, and is therefore similarly allowable.

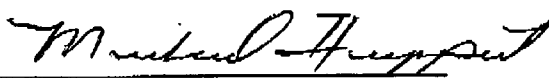
Further, claims 2-4 and 6-9 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and are therefore allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies. Also, claims 11-12 depend from claim 10 are therefore allowable.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Yuusuke INOUE

By: 

Michael S. Huppert
Registration No. 40,268
Attorney for Applicant

MSH/kjf
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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ABSTRACT

A connector (20) for securing a wiper blade to a wiper arm includes a base member (21) including a forward upper portion (32) and a rearward upper portion (33); a locking member (22) for holding either a U-hook portion (12) or a side pin (11) mounted to the base member (21); and a flexible connecting member (23) connecting the locking member (22) to the base member (21). To attach the connector (20) to the side pin (11), the connector 20 is rotated toward the side pin (11) from the opposite side of the side pin (11) so that the side pin (11) fits into ~~the~~ a recess (33A) of the rearward upper portion (33). The side pin (11) also ~~fit~~ fits into the recesses (47 and 48) of the locking member (22) so that the side pin (11) is held between the base member (21) and the locking member (22). The connector 20 enables the firm securing of the wiper blade to the wiper arm so as to restrict vibrations between the wiper blade and the wiper arm. ~~The wear out of the connector 20 is also decreased.~~

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